

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9136
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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USOECD

GENEVA PASS USDEL TO UNCTAD RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS
PRACTICES MEETING

DEPT PASS JUSTICE, FTC

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EIND, OECD
SUBJ: COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS
PRACTICES (RBP): ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN

1. BY LETTER DATED MARCH 23, OECD SECRETARIAT
(GILMER) HAS NOTIFIED RBP COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT
PRESENT CHAIRMAN GUENTHER (GERMAN) WILL NOT BE IN
POSITION TO ATTEND FUTURE RBP MEETINGS AND THAT
NEW CHAIRMAN WILL HAVE TO BE ELECTED AT NEXT
MEETING OF FULL COMMITTEE JUNE 8-9, 1978. SECRE-
TARIAT LETTER EXPLAINS ADVANCE NOTICE OF THIS
SITUATION" BEING GIVEN TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ORDER
THAT "CONTACT MAY TAKE PLACE IN GOOD TIME BETWEEN
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THEM IN CONNECTION WITH THE ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR 1978, IN LIASON WITH THEIR
RESPECTIVE PERMANENT DELEGATIONS TO OECD".

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH MISSION, GILMER EXPRESSED
OPINION THAT THESE MATTERS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT
UNCTAD RBP MEETING WHICH STARTS IN GENEVA MARCH

27 SINCE MOST OECD RBP COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL BE THERE. GILMER EXPRESSED OPINION THAT THESE MATTERS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT UNCTAD THERE. GILMER COMMENTED THAT NEITHER CANADA OR US APPEARED INTERESTED IN CHAIRMANSHIP AND THAT THIS LEFT LOWBEER OF SWEDEN AS MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE TO REPLACE GUENTHER. HE POINTED OUT THAT IF LOWBEER IS ELECTED CHAIRMAN, BOTH VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS OF RBP COMMITTEE WILL BECOME VACANT AND WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE FILLED AT JUNE MEETING. (LOWBEER IS ONE OF VICE-CHAIRMEN; OTHER VICE-CHAIRMAN WALSH (IRELAND) IS RETIRING).

3. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH US DELS DURING RECENT RBP MEETINGS, MISSION ASSUMES THAT USG IS NOT INTERESTED IN OBTAINING CHAIRMANSHIP AND THAT WE WILL SUPPORT LOWBEER UNLESS SOME OTHER CANDIDATE EMERGES. WITH REGARD TO VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS, PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER USG WISHES TO OFFER CANDIDATE? IF NOT, DOES USG HAVE ANY PREFERENCE FOR POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS? ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE BY APRIL 7, SINCE RBP ELECTIONS QUESTIONS LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED AMONG PERMANENT DELEGATIONS. SALZMAN

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